

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 18.94 Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Land Conservation Subcommittee** was held on Monday, August 26, 2013 in Room 161, UW Extension, 1150 Bellevue Street

Present: Chair Norb Dantine, Supervisor Bernie Erickson, Supervisor Tom Sieber, Supervisor Dave Landwehr, Supervisor Dave Kaster, Norb Van De Hei

Excused: -

Also Present: Director Jim Jolly, Director Jon Bechle, Executive Streckenbach, and other interested parties

I. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Norb Dantine at 6:00 p.m.

II. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Supervisor Dave Kaster, seconded by Norb Van De Hei to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

III. Approve/modify minutes of Land Conversation Subcommittee of July 22, 2013.

There was a minor supervisor name correction made to last month's minutes on motion Item II to approve.

Motion made by Supervisor Dave Landwehr, seconded by Supervisor Tom Sieber to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Comments from the Public: None

1. Budget Status Financial Report for June, 2013.

Director Jolly shared there wasn't much to report other than they are doing very well; tracking almost identical to last year's percentage.

Motion made by Supervisor Sieber, seconded by Van De Hei to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Wildlife Damage Program Update.

Land and Water Conservation Director, Jon Bechle announced with September coming up, hunting season is right around the corner, which is a big part of the program. Farmers who participate in open areas have to meet a certain requirement. A lot of questions are coming in in regards to that. The Parks Office is putting out a publication for hunting properties for hunters.

Early Goose season is the first hunting season to open up that pertains to the Damage Program. The program covers Geese, Turkeys, Deer, Bears, Wolves... they don't have too much interest in Bears and Wolves, but more interest in Geese, Deer, and Turkey. The hunting season opens September 1-15. September 16 is the regular Goose hunting season start day and runs through December 21. On September 14, Deer archery season opens, as well as the gun season and will take place and go into the end of January.

Shared were several calls from farmers about Sandhill Cranes and the damage they create. Farmers in Manitowoc area have had an influx of these Cranes in their area, and areas around Brown County towards the bay area have a good population as well. These Cranes are not in the Damage Program due to the fact that they are not in the hunted species group, but there have been debates and discussions about adding these Cranes. The farmers seeing these damages from these Cranes can do something about it, but compensation for damage is not optional. He's been documenting the complaints and calls.

There is going to be a State-Wide Deer Donation Program that will be coordinated by Brown County and Paul's Pantry. Deer or packaged meet can be donated to the pantry.

Supervisor Bernie Erickson asked about the Urban Kill land area and if it would interfere with the potential development of the Cardinal Project and/or the demolition of the old mental health center. Bechle said the areas that are approved are further away from the building. But there's always been an understanding that hunting authorization is given to specific hunters on cites. Hunters are informed of areas that may have conflict. Erickson expressed his concerns for the workers on cite, and Bechle shared there is that concern, but once the work starts, the hunters will keep their distance.

Chair Norb Dantine asked Bechle if they were working with the Parks Department, because there were concerns about a certain area. Bechle said not in particular. The Parks have their own particular areas to expand their hunting opportunities.

Motion made by Supervisor Bernie Erickson, seconded by Supervisor Kaster to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Director's Report.

Director Jolly updated the committee about the Barkhausen Project; there was a contribution of \$75,000 from the Packer Donation Ceremony last week.

Jolly reminded the committee about the rejected bid a while back, it worked; they saved \$24,000 because of that action.

There are two new cables in the County, so they are up to 20. They are rapidly approaching 50% of the operating land base in the County.

Negotiations are pretty much final with the contribution agreement within the NRCS for the working lands initiative position. He will bring this to the committee some point in the future for budget action. They are just pending approval.

The farm demonstration network is still on-going and looking very good. There is approval from Washington, and they're going to give up to \$1 million for the project. They have approached a couple farmers with interest; two farms in Outagamie, and two in Brown. They need a 25% match from the Great Lakes Commission to make this happen.

Executive Streckenbach shared some visions of their test pilot on the grazing process. Land prices are very high to make this model work. It's a small, but growing for organic produce. Something they vision is seeing some kind of labeling to signify the produce was grown on a Prosperous-free land.

Jolly recalled the motion made a while back to extend the Land and Water Plan, The Five Year Plan, that extension was approved by the state, they are good through the end of 2016.

Motion made by Supervisor Kaster, seconded by Supervisor Landwehr to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. **Such other matters as authorized by law. None**
5. **Adjourn.**

Motion made by Supervisor Sieber, seconded by Supervisor Landwehr to adjourn at 6:20 p.m. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Blaire Xiong
Recording Secretary